



Fall 2010

Draft Minutes - PHA Forum

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 5th, 2010, from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm

Location: Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, Richmond, BC

The Forum is for HIV positive/PHA delegates only.

*Chairs: Ken Buchanan, PAN Board Member (PHSA region rep)
William Leigh Hein-Blackmore, PAN Board Member (Fraser region)*

Timekeeper: Chris MacKenzie, PAN Board Secretary (Interior region)

Acknowledgement of territory (Evin J, PAN). Moment of silence (Darren L, FFL)

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting/forum was called to order at 9:07 am.

2. Introductions – of Chairs (Ken, Willie), Minute-taker (Kat)

Introductions: Ken Buchanan (PAN board member, PHSA region), William Leigh Hein-Blackmore (PAN board member, Fraser region), Chris MacKenzie (PAN board secretary, Interior region; meeting timekeeper), Kat Biondi (minute taker)

3. Housekeeping Items

Smoking is out through the lobby; please smoke away from hotel entrances. Please put all cell phones on vibrate. We're all HIV positive, all at different stages in life – please respect other people's opinions and confidentiality.

4. Discussion regarding non-PHA delegates in the room

Forum is originally and traditionally for PHAs only. Non-PHAs are identified and welcomed.

5. Roundtable introduction of Delegates (name, region, PAN organization)

Chuck O, South Fraser Community Services, Positive Haven

Hesham A, South Fraser Community Services, Positive Haven

Chris M, Living Positive Resource Centre

Andrew B, AIDS Vancouver Island

Chris Z, Positive Living Fraser Valley

Chris S, Victoria

Darren L, Friends for Life

Jesse B, YouthCO

Malsah, South Fraser AIDS Service Society

Annette M, FULL NAME REQUIRED Friendship Centre

Camille L, YouthCO

Richard O, AIDS Vancouver

Melissa E, CATIE

Albin L, CATIE

William B, Positive Living Fraser Valley

Gay-Lene C, Positive Living North

Ken B, BCPWA Society

Valerie N, MAT Program

Richard O, AIDS Vancouver

Genny P, AIDS Prevention/Needle Exchange

Ed S, VARCS

6. Review and Adoption of Agenda (Motion) – Chris

Minor change: under PAN priorities, typo only leaves 10 minutes – there is actually an hour

At 10:45, Ben Stevenson is coming in to talk about the national food security study that PAN and PAN member organizations are involved with

Moved (Malsah); Seconded (Ed); CARRIED (as amended)

7. Review and Adoption of Minutes from Fall 2009 Forum (Motion) - Chris

Moved (Darren); Seconded (Chuck); CARRIED

8. Report on Positive Leadership Development Institute

Ken: Very please to announce that Kath and Marc have completed their training and are now full fledged facilitators. They have put in a lot of work. The third BC level I session is coming up in November. PAN is also establishing an online forum for PLDI graduates that Stacy is working on. There was an alumni meeting at the Positive Gathering in spring, but that was just quick face-to-face, not an ongoing forum. A reminder to everyone that everyone in the room is eligible to go to leadership training. Hoping to have a level II in BC soon, as well. Sign up! Encourage other folks in your organization to sign up!

Andrew: What are the dates in November?

Ken: The 26 and the 27. Deadline has passed to sign up, but we may still be able to slip someone in – we're still a couple short of the eighteen people we can take.

Willie: This is highly encouraged. Positive Living tries to send at least one person per session. Goal is to continue to generate leaders from our membership. Most unlikely candidates can flourish! You will be challenged and have a new outlook!

9. Brief Highlights of PAN's accomplishments 2009/2010

Darren: Those of you who have been in the room before –you've watched PAN grow from a grassroots organization to what we are today and the continued growth of the organization, via new membership and new initiatives that are relevant to our membership.

Last year in perspective: we are actively continuing with leadership development. We've partnered with OAN (Ontario AIDS Network).

Continued partnership with CATIE in putting on this conference and last years.

Last year at this time the ED side was rocking – major funding cuts were coming down. We were questioning – what can PAN do as an organization? What we accomplished: a face-to-face meeting with the Minister of Healthy Living and Sport. We got to spend over an hour with the minister. She was very engaged, very respectful. Bringing ED's together at a summit in the spring, creating a space to allow for collaboration and problem solving around funding cuts.

Also Frontline workers were brought in to talk about the ongoing needs and challenges in the arena of Mental Health as well as HIV/Hepatitis C co-infection.

Another big change: by-law and constitution change to gain charitable tax status.

Malsah: In the early days, we tossed the idea [of applying for charitable status] around but we never felt we were really at that point.

Darren: Last year at the AGM we passed a special resolution to change the Constitution. After many months dealing with Ottawa, we were granted charitable status. As we go forward, we need to think of creative fundraising ideas.

We are continuing to work on policy. Ww have staff now! PAN now has an Executive Director and a Director of Program Development along with a Fund Development Consultant. PAN has moved from a working board to a governance board.

Working on membership: we drafted new policy for the board of PAN – later today we'll be bringing in nine potential new members, whether associate or full for the membership to vote on. We're pleased to bring new blood to the organization.

We've been working on updating the website – making it user friendly, making it interesting, instead of just documents that are posted online. This meeting's minutes will appear on the website, but only first names will be used for confidentiality reasons. As well the ED's annual report will give a more rounded years review at the AGM later today. That report can be found in your package that was sent out pre conference.

That's PAN in a nutshell; more leadership development for PHA's, more focussed workshops for ED and staff of our member agencies. Today we'll focus on setting new targets and board elections.

Ken: Thank you Darren. Further notes on funding cuts: the Living Positive Resource Centre in Kelowna is facing further funding cuts, and this is being discussed at the ED Summit. We'll talk about it as a group this afternoon.

10. New priority for PAN from Forum: a Question to the Floor

Willie: Basically, priorities in the past year have come from last year's PAN Forum and ED Summit. That's what we're asking you to do now. -On the table you will find a copy of PAN's Mission Statement as a reminder to us of what PAN does.:

"PAN is a vibrant, pro-active member-based coalition that provides a network to support the abilities and efforts of member organizations to respond to HIV and HCV co-infection in British Columbia. PAN does this by facilitating communication and the sharing of best-practices and by providing professional/workforce development and leadership training to our members and PHAs throughout BC."

Everything Darren says we've been doing has been exactly that. We have tried to influence policy change through letter writing, meetings, etc. As well as arranging meetings like this – face-to-face opportunities to share and get ideas. PAN also provides education, eg the leadership institute. But now what? We're going to continue working on all of this, but we need to keep moving forward and we need ideas from you guys.

Ken: We'd like each table group to brainstorm, create a list of priorities and then list them in order of priority Then get together as a group to discuss those priorities identified, and come up with one idea to take to the AGM this afternoon. The EDs are going to be doing the same thing.

****Twenty minutes of breakout groups****

Group 1: Spokesperson: Chris

- PAN needs to stay at the table for the Seek and Treat (STOP HIV/AIDS), because that will have a serious impact on PAN's future, in terms of providing services

- Skills building - communication on how to get money from outside the health authorities – helping to collaborate with other agencies, because we're being asked to do more – more partnerships with other agencies

Group 2: Spokesperson: Willie/Camile

- Mentorship - various organizations are in trouble for various reasons – PAN should start a mentorship program for struggling organizations, help them build a solid foundation
- Media representation of HIV positive people, especially around issues of criminalization – would be great if PAN could take a stand and speak on behalf of membership organizations

Group 3: Spokesperson: Darren

- Would like to see Level II of the leadership training brought online sooner rather than later
- Social change and PAN's role in that – really focussing on areas in which PAN can effect social change – looking back at principles and values and where we're going

Discussion:

Ken: The money that's been put out there [for STOP] – unless agencies can get involved, who will support the people who are getting treated? BCPWA has been invited to sit on committees, and has said several times that we need to have services for people on the ground.

Briefly, for those not familiar with STOP: it's a program/project that will spend \$48 million over five years primarily in the DTES (Downtown East Side) and Prince George areas to identify positive people and put them on medication.

Ed: Montaner said about three years ago that everyone should be tested and know their status. This is pie in the sky. I don't think this will work.

Gay-lene: They've started point of care in Prince George.

Darren: Tomorrow there will be a whole presentation on STOP. The PAN website has been updated with information about the program. PAN had a meeting with the BC Centre for Excellence and Irene Day – they gave a big picture and financials, which is on the PAN website. Irene explained how they saw it rolling out, and how community partners would be involved. Is it perfect? No. Do they know what they're doing? There's a learning curve.

Ken: This is why it should be a priority for PAN to be involved. Because if this works, this will spread throughout the province. VCH (Vancouver Coastal Health) already has taken some of this money.

Andrew: It needs to be controlled and monitored.

Chuck: It's not about what's happening with the money right now, it's about the future. Right now we're not involved in the Fraser region, so why should we be a part of this? But it is the future: if we don't get involved now, we won't get to determine how we are involved down the road. So we need to get involved now.

Willie: Okay, we'll come back to that this afternoon.

Chris: In terms of skills building: so much of what we're doing involves relying on the health authorities for funding. Our work is under many different umbrellas. How can PAN assist agencies to look for funding under other authorities? Or should we try to improve our partnerships? Eg if there is a client who needs housing, perhaps another agency can step in. As well: communication: PAN has information, for example, on STOP on the website so that the larger community can access this information.

Willie: One of the discussions we had at our table brought up that core training on the Island is no longer there. It's about teaching community involvement, finding other funding sources, etc. We can perhaps incorporate some of that.

Chris: That flows into the mentorship and the level II leadership training – it's all in the same "skills" pot.

Willie: We were thinking more one on one membership. It could definitely be put together, though. I want to give Camile more time to talk about PR.

Camile: Where this idea came from at YouthCO – we wanted to respond to negative representation in the media, but we don't have the skills or the media training. BCPWA and AV didn't pick it up. YouthCO has partnered with BCPWA to arrange for the HIV AIDS Legal Network to come from Toronto in November to provide media training. However, I'm wondering if PAN could also respond in these instances.

Ken: I am a media spokesperson at BCPWA and there are three people trained there. I am a spokesman, and I have done several media interviews and scrums. We are doing interviews as requested by the media agencies. The other thing that we do a lot with the Legal Network is apply to the courts for intervener status. We've been successful – there have been some acquittals. It's a slow process and the media doesn't want to hear what we have to say.

We're looking forward to the upcoming training.

Camile: I don't want to say that those skills don't exist but we're not sure where to find them.

Willie: This could fall under the mentorship idea. Perhaps there is a partnership.

Ken: If anyone has an issue like this come up in their area, call BCPWA's director of communications, Adam Reibin.

Willie: Moving on.

Darren: Our group identified Level II leadership training should happen as soon as possible for folks who want to move forward.

Ken: I'm the PAN rep for leadership, and I will convey that message strongly to get that underway.

Willie: Okay. I'll take that off the list.

Andrew: I wanted to add an additional comment to our skills building: we're in a very crucial partnership with Cool Aid on the Island, and this is a case where two and two have added up to five.

Especially with the funders who had supported our new building. Because of our partnership with Cool Aid we got the biggest piece of the mental health and addictions pot from our local United Way.

Willie: I'm going to do a quick joining here: Skills building, mentorship and media I see as one.

The STOP program – I don't think this will be a lot of work. We do need to stay at the table. Also, this is not really a provincial issue.

I do think that skills building, mentorship and media are very important.

Darren: We should continue this work. Let's ID some specific core training we'd like to see.

Willie: Is that our main priority? Is that what we'll put to a motion?

Camile: My suggestion doesn't fit within skills building. I would suggest that PAN should have a regional spokesperson on this issue.

Chris: The challenge with a provincial spokesperson is that they can speak on generalities but on criminalization, they have to get the background info before they can speak. Whereas if member agencies feel they have to respond, it's best that come from their own agency. If Evin became the spokesperson, she would have to track down people to get her facts straight before she started talking in order to be effective.

Richard: Could someone on the PAN board let us know if PAN has position papers on that?

Ken: No, we don't. If PAN could come up with position papers on subjects like this that would be great. It's extremely challenging, though.

Willie: Each organization has many members; then PAN has many membership organizations. Challenging.

Richard: I would suggest that it's the board of directors at PAN that comes up with the position paper. They're elected to represent the membership organizations.

Willie: Yes. But I have to be careful on the PAN board that I don't say anything that contradicts the Fraser region I represent.

Malsah: In the old day, when PAN had no staff and no ED, PAN used to write letters to the press and have press conferences. Getting the assent of the membership is challenging. You could never get everyone to agree on everything.

Andrew: But isn't that the function of the board –to act in concert for all of us? I'd like to think of us as having a proactive board able to work on these issues in concert.

Willie: It's something that needs to be worked out and discussed.

Darren: I would suggest that there is a big picture – we have different stances as organizations and as individuals. As an example, opinions are all over the map about disclosure.

Willie: Moving on – I need a motion as to how things are going to be worded. Skills building? People are nodding. Okay.

Malsah: I'll move that PAN continue to be represented at the STOP committee meetings.

Second (Ken), CARRIED

Darren: I'll move the continuance of skills building as a priority at the PHA level.

Second (Malsah), CARRIED

11. Election of designated PHA seats to the PAN Board: 1 seat in the North, 1 seat from Vancouver Island, 1 seat from Vancouver Coastal, 1 seat from Interior

- a) Recommendations from PAN Board Selection Committee regarding Vancouver Coastal and Interior seats

Darren for Vancouver Coastal and Chris for the Interior.

Ken: Are there any other nominations for Vancouver Coastal? None stated. Darren continues as representative.

Ken: Are there any other nominations for the Interior? None stated. Chris continues as representative.

- b) Nominations for each seat within each region – including Confirmation that each nominee is supported by their PAN member organization in running for the Board

Process: You must have filled out or be prepared to fill out the nomination form. You must also have confirmation from your member agency that they are supporting you. If you don't have that documentation, let us know because we have the blank paperwork available and that piece can still be addressed as we move forward with nominations.

The PAN board is recommending Andrew for Vancouver Island. No other nominations from Vancouver Island. Andrew is the representative from Vancouver Island.

Call for nominations from the North?

Someone is interested, but needs to get the required documents filled out. **Darren** noted this can be brought to AGM floor.

Richard motioned to bring candidates to floor for AGM assessment. Seconded by Chuck. CARRIED.

Presentation by Ben Stevenson, Peer Research Assistant Coordinator –

I was hired to coordinate a Food Security and HIV Study that is being implemented in mid-December. I'll be facilitating communication among the ASOs about how to put study into practice.

This study was designed in Ontario, then mandated to go national so BC and Quebec joined. Research team includes BCCfE, plus PAN, AIDS Vancouver and SFU. All members of PAN will have ownership over the data. Findings will be disseminated, and community partners get ownership over the data.

This study will look at how food security affects people living with HIV/AIDS. It's a two-hour survey and a whole bunch of studies that have been compiled, looking at HIV risk behaviour, socio-economic status, drug use, sex, food security, etc. This isn't groundbreaking, but we're hoping it's the final piece to put more money into food security.

Methodology: we are hiring 8 – 10 peer research assistants. We're accepting applications in mid-October, and do the training in mid to late November. We're looking for representation from across BC. How it will work: we'll all come together in Vancouver for the training. Then, you'll go to your home base. Chris ? Who will coordinate among ASOs and get researchers hosted at different agencies?. Ben - They're looking for 800 people to take the study. Researchers are paid; so are folks who take the study.

We're looking for people who want to get involved. The idea is peer research. If you have any questions, Terry Howard is presenting on Thursday. If you want to get involved and you have the skills and the time, please get in touch with us. We're looking to build research capacity among BC ASOs and PHAs. More studies are coming up in the next five years, so we can build off of the relationships established now in the future.

Andrew: I just wanted to say that two years ago AVI asked me to facilitate focus groups with our clients because we were facing budget cuts. Clear and away, the main issue facing these folks was food security. I'm really glad this is happening.

Ben: For sure. It's easy to take food for granted when you have the money to pay for it, but when you don't have the money or if you don't have the physical capacity to get food, it becomes a big deal.

Darren: FFL took on a big project a number of years back and I was a peer researcher. It was a very rewarding experience. It's about understanding as a peer, and having that communication and that ease of talk that happens.

Chris: The one big question: there should be a clear understanding of what food security is. Food security is a bit vague, so there needs to be clear information:

Ben: Evin is sending a memo out to PAN that will include a working definition of food security.

12. Close of meeting

Willie moves to close – 11:00 am